

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 210432
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 210432

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, US, MASS, OCLR

SUBJECT: AMB. ADDOU'S MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM,
AUGUST 16, 1978

1. AMBASSADOR ADDOU IN MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AUGUST 16 LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH WE HAVE SENT TO YOU BY SEPTEL. AS YOU WILL SEE AIDE MEMOIRE PROPOSES STEPS TO BE TAKEN TOWARD BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH NEIGHBORING KENYA AND ETHIOPIA. ADDOU SAID PRESIDENT SIAD IS PREPARED TO INITIATE THIS PROGRAM IF U.S. WOULD SEND MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA. ADDOU ALSO REQUESTED THAT SIAD BE RECEIVED HERE IN WASHINGTON BY THE PRESIDENT. IF SIAD DOES NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE, SIAD IS PREPARED TO RESIGN AND TURN THE GOVERNMENT OVER TO MILITARY OFFICERS WHO ARE LIKELY TO TRY TO RE-ESTABLISH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 210432

TIES WITH THE SOVIETS.

2. IN RAMBLING, OVER ONE HOUR TALK, ADDOU STRESSED SIAD DEPRESSED BY LACK OF MORE OVERT SUPPORT BY U.S. FOR HIS DECISION TO TURN TO WEST. SIAD'S RECENT VISITS TO CONSERVATIVE ARAB AND WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS WERE

NOT AS SUCCESSFUL AS HE HAD HOPED BECAUSE IN ALL SIAD'S TALKS HE HEARD THE SAME REFRAIN: THE U.S. IS HOLDING BACK IN ITS SUPPORT TO SOMALIA. IF THE U.S. BACKS SOMALIA, SIAD BELIEVES, OTHERS WILL TOO.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING BY NEWSOM, ADDOU SAID SIAD IS NOT POLITICALLY STRONG ENOUGH NOW TO STOP SOMALI GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION FRONTS IN THE OGADEN. IF THE U.S. ACCEDES TO SIAD'S REQUESTS, SIAD'S POPULARITY WOULD INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY IN SOMALIA AND THEN HE WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM OUTLINED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE, AS WELL AS ENDING SUPPORT TO SOMALI INSURGENTS IN THE OGADEN. SIAD WOULD ALSO END EFFORTS TO UNIFY ALL SOMALIS UNDER ONE FLAG.

4. ADDOU SAID SOVIET PROPAGANDA TODAY IN SOMALIA STRESSES THAT USSR HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE FRIEND OF SOMALI PEOPLE. IMPLICATION IS CLEAR, ACCORDING TO ADDOU, THAT IF SIAD DEPOSED AND NEW LEADER FORMS GOVERNMENT, CLOSE SOVIET-SOMALI FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION COULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED.

5. DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING OPTIONS PRESENTED BY SIAD'S OFFER. WILL ADVISE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 210432

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